In the Claims

1 1. (currently amended) A method for ordering multimedia content,

2 comprising the steps of:

3   segmenting the multimedia content to extract objects;

4   extracting and associating features of the objects to produce content

5 entities, wherein the content entities are recursive data structures comprising

6 features, relations, directed acyclic graphs and containment sets;

7   coding the content entities to produce directed acyclic graphs of the

8 content entities, each directed acyclic graph representing a particular

9 interpretation of the multimedia content;

10   measuring attributes of each content entity; and

11   assigning the measured attributes to each corresponding content entity

12 in the directed acyclic graphs to rank order the multimedia content.

1 2. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured attributes include

2 intensity attributes.

1 3. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured attributes include

2 direction attributes.

1 4. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured attributes include

2 spatial attributes.

1 5. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured attributes include

2 temporal attributes.

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1   6. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured attributes are

2   arranged in an increasing rank order.

1   7. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the measured attributes are

2   arranged in an decreasing rank order.

1   8. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2   traversing the multimedia content according to the directed acylic

3   graph and the measured attributes assigned to the content entities.

1   9. (original) The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of:

2   summarizing the multimedia content according to the directed acylic

3   graph and the measured attributes assigned to the content entities.

1   10. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein the multimedia content is a

2   three dimensional video sequence.

3   11. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein nodes of the directed acyclic

4   graphs represent the content entities and edges represent breaks in the

5   segmentation, and the measured attributes are associated with the

6   corresponding edges.

1   12. (original) The method of claim 8 wherein at least one secondary content

2   entity is associated with a particular content entity, and wherein the

3   secondary content entity is selected during the traversing.

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1   13. (original) The method of claim 9 wherein a summary of the multimedia

2   is a selected permutation of the content entities according to the associated

3   ranks.